



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 12 January 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
12 JANUARY 1967

1. Communist China

Chinese military leaders are being drawn into the vortex. Yesterday it was announced that the army's "cultural revolution group"--the organization created to purge it of untrustworthy elements--has itself been purged and reconstituted. Mao's wife is listed as an adviser in the new group.

This, together with recent public attacks on several major military figures, confirms that the Mao - Lin Piao group doubts the loyalty of some elements of the military. The Mao - Lin Piao forces are evidently making a concerted effort to rectify the situation.

This may be easier said than done. The strength demonstrated in recent days by Mao's and Lin Piao's opponents in the party bureaucracy and perhaps elsewhere suggests that the struggle may well become even more violent before a resolution is reached.

Meanwhile, the return home of Chinese embassy personnel from posts in all parts of the world is reaching major proportions. So far well over 500 such people have left for China from posts in more than 30 countries. They include all levels from chauffeur to ambassador. The most likely explanation is that they are in for screening and reindoctrination in connection with the cultural revolution.

2. South Vietnam

Saigon is now brimming over with talk of General Co's early removal. Co himself is well aware of what is being said and is probably equally aware of Ky's antipathy.

The embassy comments that a move by Ky against Co at this point seems neither desirable nor necessary. Even if Ky has laid his plans well, there is always the possibility of a strong reaction from Co's fellow southerners--with the added possibility that the militant Buddhists might also try to get into the act.

3. France

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4. Congo

The Union Minière is standing firm against any compromise with the Mobutu government. Company officials thus far refuse even to go along with a Belgian proposal for the reopening of talks with Mobutu.

Mobutu, for his part, has shown some softening in his position but he is unlikely to cave in completely. A chaotic breakdown of the Congo's money economy is in prospect unless some agreement is forthcoming.

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5. Israel

The Israelis have moved up enough forces to launch a retaliatory raid into Syria if they want to. It could come with little warning and be either a limited ground attack or a ground-air raid.

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6. Nicaragua

Nicaraguans are getting ready to elect another Somoza in presidential elections some three weeks from now. Most voters will be pleased to go along with General Somoza's well-oiled party machine.

A few, however, feel that over 30 years with the same ruling family is too much.

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